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organized the British Rainfall service, and edited the annual volume for thirty-nine years. The peculiarity of this rainfall organization is its voluntary, unofficial character. By years of continued hard work Mr. Symons was able to build up a system which embraced all parts of the British Isles, and brought together a remarkable series of rainfall records, and the support of this service was obtained through the voluntary contributions of its observers. Dr. Mill is carrying on the work with unswerving devotion to the ideals of its founder. The present volume contains data supplied by 3,982 rain gauges, set forth in the usual way. In addition, there are original articles on the rainfall of Ben Nevis, and other matters of more local British interest. A valuable part of the report is a discussion of *Heavy Falls on Rainfall Days in 1904*, in which the paths of the cyclones which brought these heavy rainfalls are charted, together with the rainfall distribution. This makes it possible to study the relation of precipitation to the cyclonic unit, rather than to the daily or monthly unit.

R. DEC. W.

Commercial Geography. By Henry Gannett, Carl L. Garrison and Edwin J. Houston. vi and 440 pp. 185 Figures and Index. The American Book Company, New York, 1905.

Gannett, Garrison and Houston's Commercial Geography is the latest addition to the rapidly-increasing number of commercial texts for use in high schools, and is in many ways a striking contrast to most of its American rivals. Commercial Geography has not been taught long enough in this country for experts to come to an agreement as to what the subject should include or what emphasis should be given to the different phases. Two plans prevail as to the content of texts. Under one plan, illustrated in the well-known books by Adams and Trotter, a brief consideration is given to the general principles of the subject, and the rest of the space is devoted to Regional Commercial Geography.

Redway's Commercial Geography and the book under review follow the other plan, evidently adapted from the English master Chisholm, of dividing the treatment into three parts—Commercial Conditions, Commercial Products, and Commercial Countries.

The proportionate space given to these different phases in the five leading texts is indicated by rough percentages in the following table:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.	COMMODITIES.	REGIONS.
Adams..... 10%	—*	90%
Trotter..... 12%	—	88%
Redway..... 22%	28%	50%
G. G. & H.... 20%	20%	60%
Chisholm..... 13%	27%	60%

For practical purposes the general plan followed in the book under review is probably the best, though it involves such a condensation of material that the study of the text leads to memory work rather than to a realization of the principles of commercial geography.

The authors have given a good summary of the conditions determining commerce, with a better emphasis of the economic determinants than is found in any other American book. The physical side is, on the other hand, fragmentary, and some-

* About 40 per cent. of Adams's book, including product maps, is given to commercial products. As the general principles of commercial geography are not confined to the first six chapters, but are applied throughout the book, the bases of the subject occupy much more than 10 per cent. of the space.—EDITOR.

what unsatisfactory. The treatment of products is generally well done, though it would have been improved if many of the products of lesser importance had been omitted. The regional treatment is good. The book is supplied with an excellent series of percentage diagrams and black-and-white distribution maps. The statistical tables are well selected for reference work, and the index is full and most serviceable.

The volume is excellent for a trained teacher who has a good laboratory equipment to be used in a supplementary way. We have tested the results of the book in one instance and found a large amount of information of unrelated facts and little real knowledge—a condition that might arise with even an ideal book in the hands of an untrained teacher. In many ways the volume is the best in the market, and is a step in advance. For classes in the later years of a high school we should prefer a volume with a little more emphasis of causes and consequences and fewer details. R. E. D.

Zur Kunde der Balkanhalbinsel. Reisen und Beobachtungen.

Herausgegeben von Dr. Carl Patsch. Heft 1. Eine Reise durch die Hochländergaue Oberalbaniens. Von Karl Steinmetz. 66 pp., 13 Illustrations, and Route Map. Heft 2. Aus Bosniens Letzter Türkenzeit. Von Dr. Josef Koetschet, vii and 109 pp., with portrait of Dr. Koetschet. Heft 3. Ein Vorstosz in die Nordalbanischen Alpen. 60 pp., 10 Illustrations, and a Map. A. Hartleben, Vienna, 1904-1905. (Price, M. 2.25 each.)

The publishing house of A. Hartleben is to be commended for beginning the publication of this series of travels and observations in the Balkan Peninsula, for they promise to throw some new light upon this obscure part of the world. In his travels in the mountain region of northern Albania, Engineer Steinmetz, for example, almost within sight of Scutari, fell in with phases of life that would seem more characteristic of some earlier century. Girls and women on the road were bending under heavy burdens which they were carrying to the market towns. Men, on the other hand, carried only their fine rifles. The explorer saw only one muzzle-loader among the mountaineers, who are fully abreast of the times in the value of their guns.

The first night out from Scutari Steinmetz became accidentally the guest of the celebrated outlaw, Kin Matija, who lives by nightly forays upon the plain dwellers, and seems to live in perfect security among his mountains, though the Turkish Government has set a price on his head.

Among these mountains the first questions that all men asked Steinmetz were, "Who are you?" and "Where did you come from?" He thought it most fortunate that in this lawless land there is an unwritten law which is protective in its effect. In whatever house he ate a piece of bread, or even drank a glass of water, he was henceforth a friend of that house, and any injury to him would probably be avenged.

Steinmetz's two journeys were in the basin of the middle and lower Drin, which had already been studied on the geographical side by Hassart, von Östreich, and Consul General von Ippen. The explorer's two maps show a region divided by parallel ranges, and deep, very narrow valleys, into natural mountain districts, where it would be very difficult, without large sacrifice, for the Government fully to impose its authority upon the people. Steinmetz comments on the barrenness of the upper parts of the mountains and the distances of the small settlements from one another.

Le Origini degli Stati Uniti D'America. Gennaro Mondaini. pp. xvi + 460. Ulrico Hoepli, Milano, 1904.

The physiographic description of the territory of the United States that opens this well-intended volume is concise, but quite sufficient for the scope of the book. The chapter about the Moundbuilders might have been shorter for what it really con-